

reduced to a minimum if it is not put an end to absolutely. The bulk of those belonging to the Opium Guild are honest men who have paid duty for their customers in China—purchasing tickets in Bonham Strand—preferring to secure the discount and save trouble. There will, however, be no future to object in doing this as the Hawku will no longer compete with the Maritime Customs, and junk carried opium will have no advantage over that shipped in steamers. Probably therefore the duty will be paid at Canton in future instead of being paid here to the agents of the Hawku. If the new measure becomes law the coasting and river steamers will be relieved of certain restrictions, and might privileges will be extended instead of curtailed. It will be recollect that a rumour was current—indeed the Commissioner of Customs at Canton refused in writing to allow cargo to be taken at night by the steamers—that all river privileges would be withdrawn when the increased tax came into force.

The advantages likely to accrue from the new agreement have thus been shown, but it must not be supposed that they will be secured without some trouble, some inconvenience. The regulations provided may be irksome at first, as Mr. M. H. Russell thinks, but he must not rest under the delusion that there is much choice in the matter. It is not, as he suggests, a case of King Log being exchanged for King Stork. The Imperial Government would insist upon some arrangement, and as Sir Robert Hart was determined to secure some concession—supposing that Downing Street yielded to Hongkong—he would have been able to make things very unpleasant for all engaged in trade here—and especially for dealers in opium. As it is, if the new Bill is accepted we shall have a well known tariff, and no exceptions by underlings, if there are any first there will be a chance of these being promptly redressed. Owners, too, will at all events have their opium in their own godowns, instead of in hulls as might have been the case. They are simply asked to co-operate to prevent smuggling, at some slight trouble to themselves. Singapore does this already for the sake of her own revenue, and it seems reasonable to suppose that Hongkong will do the same for her own revenue, to relieve her trade from restrictions, to please China, and to fulfil the pledges given by the British Government. Finally, the fear least the opium trade should be driven elsewhere seems to be one that may safely be dismissed. Macao acts in concert with Hongkong, and therefore can secure no advantage over this Colony or offer a refuge to smugglers. The trade is hardly likely to go to Haiphong, where the duty on opium is 15 per cent; the drug cannot be landed at Saigon unless to the Opium Farmer, and it certainly will not go to Manila. The one peril that menaces the Indian Opium trade is the rivalry of the native drug. But if the Chinese Government fails to increase the duty on the home grown opium, and it interferes with the import of the foreign drug, their revenue will undergo a serious decline. This contingency has already been foreseen by the Viceroy of Chungli, and we believe the duty on the native drug will, spite of the reported opposition of the Marquis Taixu, be very materially increased. The Peking Government will not lightly surrender so large and certain a revenue merely to profit the poppy-cultivators of Yunnan, Kueichow, and Manchuria.

CRICKET.

HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB, LADIES' RECREATION CLUB.

This return match, which had been originally fixed for Friday and Saturday and postponed on account of the weather, was played on the Cricket Ground, Hongkong, on Saturday, the 19th inst. The Ladies, determined not to be beaten a second time, had got together a strong team under the captaincy of the veteran Derby, who was as confident as that his effort to catch a certain well-known hat (not thirty dollars, Sir, when new) went unheeded.

Derby won the toss and sent in Robertson and Barff to the bowling of Travers and Wilson. Both batsmen got to work at once and made the pace pretty lively. Mr. George Smith, who had relieved Travers, got off with Barff's guard 1 for 49. Coxon joined Robertson, who was playing his usual safe and sensible game, and the mounted pair had 22 to 23 when Travers, who had replaced Wilson, cleared away the latter batsman, who had compiled 42 by close, hard hitting. Graham followed, but was almost immediately caught at cover point 3 for 75. Coxon gave a chance to Travers, a few overs later, which was accepted. 4 for 95. Coxon's 15 was a very steady, careful performance. Hawkins joined Coxon, and after putting together a difficult partnership of 27, when Travers, the reserve Captain, proceeded leisurely to the wicket (how about that bet?) but fell a victim to the next ball from Wilson 6 for 10. The remaining four wickets only put on 4 runs, the innings closing for 103. Soanian carried his bat for a carefully played 15.

With 103 to win, Travers and Wilson for the Club faced the bowlers of Graham and Barff. With the score at 5 the general Hon. See was smartly caught at slip by Graham off Barff and Sawyer joined Wilson, who was shortly after bowled by a beauty from Barff, 2 for 22, of which the retiring batsman had made 15 in good style. Barff filled the vacuum, but after putting together 8 in his usual slashing style was well caught by Wilson, 3 for 23. The wicket keeper, too, much to his chagrin, the reserve Captain, proceeded leisurely to the wicket (how about that bet?) but fell a victim to the next ball from Wilson 6 for 10. The remaining four wickets only put on 4 runs, the innings closing for 103. Soanian carried his bat for a carefully played 15.

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Many of the Ladies were on the ground to see their champions play, taking a keen interest in the game, and the band of the Northamptonshire Regiment was present and played some capital selections.

Sabjoined in the score—

THE LADIES' RECREATION CLUB.

Mr. George Smith, President.

W. H. Robertson, Vice-President.

G. Coxon, and A. Travers, Members.

N. D. Sawyer, and H. Wilson, Members.

T. A. Hawkins, and J. Wilson, Members.

G. A. Graham, and J. Wilson, Members.

G. H. Cooke, and H. Wilson, Members.

E. M. Sawyer, and H. Wilson, Members.

Entered—

108

BOWLING ANALYSTS.

Balls, Runs, Maidens, Wickets, Wides.

Wilson 82 32 4 8 3

Travers 60 33 5 4 1

E. M. Sawyer 62 41 1 1

Barff 16

108

BOWLING ANALYSTS.

Balls, Runs, Maidens, Wickets, Wides.

Graham 57 28 8 3

Barff 52 23 3 1

108

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The *Peking Gazette* of the 18th February gives the punishment awarded to Shih Envoi the clerk in the Board of Revenue, whose enormous "sauve" was to be sent to the capital of the Yellow River was mentioned some time since. He has got a hundred blows and three years' banishment, but this will doubtless be commuted for a money payment.

The *Hu-nan* says that the Empress has ordered the Board of Works to employ the Indians in widening the Kuan-ting Lake 120 feet so that it shall be navigable for steamers. The *Shen-mao* says that the spring, and it is said that four small dredgers are now ready on the lake, including the one ordered by His Excellency Li Hung-chang as a gift.

According to a Shanghai native paper, an attempt was made to squeeze The 20,000 wine-moneys out of the late Hui-kuan or Eppo of Canton at the Tung-pi gate of Peking. He paid 10,000 through the intervention of one of the Ministers of State. The Hui-kuan then gave The 10,000 to the Admiralty, in which he received A 1000 bth. Later on he subscribed The 40,000 more, for which he was put down on the list of Captains-General.

The *Hu-nan* says that the Foochow authorities have been unable to collect a certain debt and they can only wait for the new system. They have got nothing to do on the board, owing to complete failure in private business, and have done in Canton. There is a great scarcity of cash in Foochow and much difficulty in getting respectable banks to open after the late disturbances. At Soochow a proclamation has been issued forbidding the opening of opium shops. The *Shen-mao* says that junks are fitting out at Amoy to import opium direct from Foochow and to import it alone.

The *Shen-mao* says that the Mongolian town of Uliang-hai is officially set forth in a translation made by the *Daily News* from a recent memorial in the *Peking Gazette*.

The Warden of the Marches whose post it is that highlighted town received an order to send to Peking a formal congratulatory address on the recent assumption of power by the Emperor. He had despatched the best congratulatory address to the Emperor, but the Emperor had not received it.

The marriage of Monsieur Schenck of the French Legation and Mademoiselle Stridde, niece of His Excellency the Belgian Minister, was celebrated on the 20th ult. and was a very brilliant affair, the guests all in full dress.

The bride looked lovely in a splendid dress of white satin. The official ceremony took place at the Tung-tang Cathedral in a vestry room, the mass being conducted by Abbe Xavier. A second religious ceremony was observed in the chapel of the Russian Legation and the picturesquely ritual of the Orthodox Church greatly interested the spectators, few of whom had previously had an opportunity of witnessing such a service. After the marriage Mass, the bride and bridegroom entertained the company at the Belgian Legation.

The Marquis Tseng, whose health was not the best for some time, is fortunately now fast recovering. On the 25th ult. the Marquis, accompanied by his secretary, Mr. Lien Fang, and his physician, Doctor Duivende, dined at the Netherlands Legation, at the request of His Excellency Mr. Ferguson. The company consisted of the Ambassador, his wife, the United States Minister and Mrs. Danby, Doctor and Mrs. Martin (W. K. Co.,) Doctor and Mrs. Pritchard (London Mission,) Mr. and Mrs. Jordan (British Legation,) Doctor and Mrs. Edkins, etc. The Marquis seemed quite in high spirits again in his own country.

The *Shen-mao* says that his excuse has been accepted, and that his memorial is endorsed by Imperial minute. We have taken no notice.

The *Shanghai Courier* records the death at the residence of the family in Kiang-tung, Peking, on the 14th March, of King-ping, the Fol-Wen, younger son of the Marquis Tseng. He was only eight years old, and had been ill health for some time, suffering much during the last few months of the site of his illustrious father in England, and it will be remembered that it was in consequence of his precocious condition that the Marquis Tseng postponed his return to China. Though he recovered and remained considerably during the voyage back to his native land, the young Lord Fol-Wen finally became very sick, and he soon became unconscious. He died on the 14th March morning, the 14th March. We believe his ailment was a stroke of the liver, and latterly he was attended by Dr. Little and Dr. Pichon. His father being absent in Peking, he could not be consulted as to the funeral arrangements, and was decided to remove the body on the 16th to the Kiang-tung Arsenal, and it was to take part in the funeral that the high native official assembled that morning. Among these guests were His Excellency Tung-kiang, the District Magistrate, the Mixed Court Magistrate, and several military mandarins, all with their relatives. The coffin was placed in one of the lower rooms, and deceased being so young, there was an absence of all gory display. There was a simple table containing provisions for the funeral, and the departed, while on the top of the coffin, was a small box containing the words "Served in the Country of King-ping, born 12th day, 8th month, 5th year of Kwang Sun, died 26th day, 2nd month, 13th year Kwang Sun." After the usual number of crackers had been let off, and buried the author left the residence, and proceeded up the Nanking Road, into the Kiangsi Road, into the Nanking Concession, and on to the Arsenal. The chief mourners were the deceased's two brothers, who walked on either side of the coffin, the Marquess Tseng following in the immediate rear.

TIENTSIEN.

March 18th. I hear the French Syndicate claimed from H. E. Li Hung-chang yesterday an extra million francs in regard to the works at Pao-tang, or a sum of wrong measurements given them in the course of the work.

H. H. H. Prince Chia has telegraphed to Li Hung-chang to come to Peking to be present at the review of H. E. Li's troops, known as the Hsin-chih yen. Li, I hear, leaves here earlier than he intended to have done, and although the 13th inst. will be the anniversary of Lady Li's birthday, he will start for Peking on the 11th to enable him to be present at the review.

12th March.

His Excellency Li Hung-chang left here yesterday morning for Peking. He rode thirty miles on horseback and then took his chair for the remainder of the journey.

The Emperor and Empress leave Peking for the Western Tombs on the 31st instant.

H. E. Sheng Tsoai left here by the *Hastig* this morning for Foochow. The scheme that he had before him was to have H. E. Li Hung-chang have not, it is said, been successful.

The Chinese paper, *Shen-mao*, says that the Tientsin-Taku Railway, and other things will be arranged by Li Hung-chang whilst he is at the capital.

Although the railroad scheme was known here on the 7th ult., and that it had been arranged in favour of the French Syndicate, it has taken all this time for our local paper to make the facts known. The more surprising as it is well known that the Yenan-ho and at Peking are connected with the Shih-pao—Merger Correspondent.

The Censors of the "Middle City" in Peking have issued a proclamation forbidding any one from refusing to take the "One-for-one-tax." The Tientsin *Shih-pao* says: "Their Excellencies' proclamation states that since the reign of Hsien-feng, the cash minted by the Pao-chu and Pao-Yung mints had been coined one for ten, and their shapes, sizes, and weights have been determined and authorized by the Board of Revenue from time to time, with the full sanction of the Throne; and, although these cash are not of a uniform size or weight, they have passed current for a long number of years, and people have carried their cash to buy rice and flour they find these articles withheld from them unless they consent to a greatly depreciated value of their cash. Consequently frequent litigations and quarrels have arisen. Our emperors being made, it was ascertained that the state of affairs in the financial market was not in accordance with the remonstrance that a different system of coinage should be immediately instituted in accordance with the orders of Her Majesty the Empress. It should be understood that when the Board of Revenue received the sanction of the Throne, during the 6th month of last year, to make an entire reform of the present system of cash mintage within the space of three years, permission was also granted to continue the use of the one-for-one cash, and there never was any idea of discrediting them as obsolete."

PEKING.

The Woosung Bar has been engaging the attention of the foreign Ministers of late, and they have induced the Tung-kiang Yamen to send an order in instruction to the Viceroy of Nanking to take the question of dredging the bar seriously in hand and to report on the condition of the dredging machine, &c. This seems to afford some satisfaction to the Chinese, but whether the authorities in Peking who are responsible for the delay of needed reforms, but rather the provincial official, out of whose pockets, in the first instance at all events, the expenditure would have to come.

The views expressed by the Marquis Tseng since he was appointed what may be called the Minister of the *Min* are not understood to be of a considerate character. He advised the return to the ancient native method of casting the per coinage, or, if foreign machinery must be used that it should be kept at a distance from the capital. There is no doubt that in adopting

this attitude the Marquis follows the course which is safest for himself.

The article published under the name of the Marquis Tseng in the *Shen-mao* of Peking has naturally attracted a good deal of attention here. Many of the ideas are no doubt the Marquis', but it would be interesting to see what a rebel General and a Chinese member of art were able to do with a good deal of attention to the paper, which is regarded rather as a personal manifesto.

The Marquis Tseng has settled down without dignity into his most useful position at the Tung-kiang Yamen. That he is not a power who would be premature to say, but at any rate the board have it in a means of obtaining information they never before possessed, and that alone must give him influence. His social position is that of the Marquis to the *Min*, and the *Min* to the *Min*. The *Min* gave The 10,000 to the Admiralty, in which he received A 1000 bth. Later on he subscribed The 40,000 more, for which he was put down on the list of Captains-General.

The *Hu-nan* says that the Foochow authorities have been unable to collect a certain debt and they can only wait for the new system. They have got nothing to do on the board, owing to complete failure in private business, and have done in Canton. There is a great scarcity of cash in Foochow and much difficulty in getting respectable banks to open after the late disturbances. At Soochow a proclamation has been issued forbidding the opening of opium shops. The *Shen-mao* says that junks are fitting out at Amoy to import opium direct from Foochow and to import it alone.

The *Shen-mao* says that the *Shen-mao* has the following: "The *Indo-Chinois*, just published by an anonymous author, is a very interesting article. It is well written and the author has done a good deal of attention to the paper, which is regarded rather as a personal manifesto."

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The Marquis Tseng has settled down without dignity into his most useful position at the Tung-kiang Yamen. That he is not a power who would be premature to say, but at any rate the board have it in a means of obtaining information they never before possessed, and that alone must give him influence. His social position is that of the Marquis to the *Min*, and the *Min* to the *Min*. The *Min* gave The 10,000 to the Admiralty, in which he received A 1000 bth. Later on he subscribed The 40,000 more, for which he was put down on the list of Captains-General.

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